

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 /098 W

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P R 040941Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4697

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO : 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, AU

SUBJECT: CURRENT AUSTRIAN VIEWS ON IEA AND CONSUMER/
PRODUCER DIALOGUE

REFS: A. VIENNA 0847 B. OECD PARIS 01419

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SUMMARY: FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES CURRENT AUSTRIAN VIEWS
ON CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE:

1. WHAT EMERGES CLEARLY AT THIS POINT IS THAT MOST
IMMEDIATE GOA CONCERN IS MATTER OF HOW THEY WILL BE
REPRESENTED AT INITIAL AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. STATE
SECRETARY VESELSKY, ECONOMIC COORDINATOR IN FEDERAL
CHANCELLERY (AND A CLOSE CONFIDANT OF KREISKY), IN LENGTHLY
CONVERSATION WITH ECONCOUNS REEMPHASIZED GOA POSITION
THAT HAD ALREADY EMERGED AT MID-JANUARY STANDING GROUP
MEETING (PARA 6 REF B), I.E., THAT AUSTRIA WOULD NOT AND
COULD NOT BE REPRESENTED BY EC NOR WOULD GOA ACCEPT A
SCENARIO THAT WOULD EXCLUDE THEM ALTOGETHER FROM FIRST
MEETING. BOTH VESELSKY AND, IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION,
AMBASSADOR SCHOBER (MFA) EMPHASIZED THAT HIS SHOULD NOT
BE MISINTERPRETED AS INDICATING GOA DESIRE FOR DIRECT
PARTICIPATION IN THE INITIAL MEETINGS BUT RATHER THEIR
VIEW THAT A NON-EC COUNTRY COULD REPRESENT AUSTRIA.

SCHOBER SAID HIS PERSONAL OPINION WAS THAT THREE IEA NEUTRALS
(SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, AND AUSTRIA) MIGHT WELL BE REPRE-
SENTED BY ONE OF THE THREE. HE FELT THAT IW WOULD BE
IMPORTANT BOTH FROM VIEWPOINT OF CONSUMER AND IEA SOLIDARITY
AS WELL AS FROM VIEWPOINT OF CREATING ATMOSPHERE OF NON-
CONFRONTATION, THAT NEUTRAL IEA MEMBERS BE REPRESETNED IN
PREPARATORY DIALOGUE. DR. HLADIK IN ENERGY SECTION OF
TRADE MINISTRY AND ONE OF GOA DELEGATES TO IEA, HAS
REFLECTED SAME VIEWS IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS.

2. AS FOR LOCATION, VESELSKY TOLD US THERE HAD BEEN SOME
FEELERS FROM USG TO GOA SEEKING AUSTRIAN REACTION TO HAVING
FIRST MEETING TAKE PLACE IN VIENNA. HE SAID THAT
ALTHOUGH GOA AT A LATER STAGE MIGHT WELCOME CONSUMER/
PRODUCER MEETINGS IN VIENNA, THEY WOULD PREFER INITIAL
MEETINGS TO BE HELD ELSEWHERE. VESELSKY OPINED THAT
BECAUSE OF OECD LOCATION, PARIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE
IDEAL FOR FIRST MEETINGS.

3. BOTH VESELSKY AND SCHOBER CONSIDER USG EMPHASIS ON
CONSUMER SOLIDARITY TO BE SENSIBLE. (EMBASSY ON SEVERAL
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OCCASIONS HAS STRESSED CONDITIONALITY ASPECT.) THEY
HAVE NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THE FIELD OF FINANCIAL
SOLIDARITY BUT ARE CONCERNED THAT PROGRESS ON CONSERVA-
TION MAY NOT MOVE RAPIDLY ENOUGH FROM US VIEWPOINT AND
THUS CAUSE DELAY IN GETTING DIALOGUE STARTED. (GOA
ITSELF FACES DELICATE POLITICAL PROBLEM IN OBTAINING
PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF IEA MEMBERSHIP AND IMPLEMENTING
LEGISLATION DURING SPRING.) AT SAME TIME VESELSKY WAS IN

AGREEMENT ON NEED FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATION.

4. REGARDING AGENDA, GOA BELIEVES SECURITY OF SUPPLY SHOULD BE FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS AND THAT CONSUMERS SHOULD PRESS FOR CLEAR STATEMENT BY PRODUCERS THAT THEY WILL "NOT MIX OIL WITH POLITICS" AND PROVIDE ASSURANCES RE SECURITY OF SUPPLIES. PRICE IS SECONDARY IN IMPORTANCE TO THE AUSTRALIAN. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE PRICES CAN BE BROUGHT DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY, ALTHOUGH FOR OPTICAL PURPOSES THEY THINK A VERY SMALL, NOMINAL DECLINE MIGHT BE OBTAINABLE. THRUST OF AUSTRIAN POSITION IS TO HEAD OFF FURTHER SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN OIL PRICES, GOA CONCERNED THAT U.S. MAY PRESS FOR A MINIMUM PRICE IN IEA. THEY WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THIS, PARTICULARLY IN AN ELECTION YEAR (PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR FALL 1975).

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT FOR BOTH INTERNAL POLITICAL AND FOREIGN POLICY REASONS, AUSTRIANS ARE NOT AT ALL EAGER TO HAVE INITIAL CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUES OR PREPCON TAKE PLACE IN VIENNA. THIS ALSO REFLECTS CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S DESIRE NOT BE OUT IN FRONT IN POLICIES WHICH MAY APPEAR OFFENSIVE TO ANY GROUPING AND TO "WAIT AND SEE" WHAT HAPPENS IN THE INITIAL PHASES OF THE DIALOGUE.

6. AUSTRIANS APPEAR FLEXIBLE AS TO WHO WOULD REPRESENT THEM AND OTHER SMALLER STATES AT PREPCON. GIVEN THIS FLEXIBILITY IT SHOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT A FORMULA FOR REPRESENTATION WHICH GOA COULD ACCEPT. (END COMMENT). HUMES

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